

LT. GOVERNOR JOHN GARAMENDI HONORED AS STRONG PROTECTOR OF CALIFORNIA'S COASTLINE

"Friend of the Coast" award recognizes his efforts to keep California's waterways and coastline free of debris and pollution; Garamendi most recently championed SB 899, which prohibits the use of toxics in plastics manufacturing.

SACRAMENTO - Lieutenant Governor John Garamendi was honored on Tuesday by the California Coastal Coalition (CalCoast) and the Wetlands Recovery Project as the recipient of the 2007 "Friend of the Coast" award.

□ Garamendi, long a protector of the environment and California's waterways, was given the award for his longstanding support of efforts to protect California's coastline.

"During 32 years of public service few causes have inspired me more than the obligation we have to protect and preserve our environment for future generations," said the Lt. Governor. "I am honored to work with groups such as CalCoast and the Wetlands Recovery Project to ensure that California's coastline and waterways remain beautiful sources of life, and pride, for this state."

Earlier this week Lt. Governor Garamendi championed SB 899, a bill that would ban the use of toxics in the manufacture of plastics. His support helped the bill win approval in the State Senate. Steve Aceti, executive director of CalCoast, said Garamendi's support for such measures is critical to the protection of California's waterways.

"As a member of the California Ocean Protection Council and the State Lands Commission, Lt. Governor Garamendi has taken very strong positions in support of California's coast and oceans," Aceti said.

Recently, the Lt. Governor led the way to defeat the proposed construction of a massive Liquefied Natural Gas terminal off the Ventura Coast, a project that could potentially release more greenhouse gases into the environment, and threaten some of the fragile stretches of California coastline.

Garamendi also strongly supports a package of marine debris legislation that would force companies to curtail their use of plastics in fast food packaging and regulate the transportation and handling of tiny plastic pellets called nurdles, which kill ocean life and contaminate our waters.

As a member of the California legislature Garamendi wrote laws that helped set the tone for the groundswell of environmental activism being pursued today. His bills became law and protected Mono Lake and Lake Tahoe. And when Bill Clinton appointed him Deputy Secretary of the Interior in 1995, he negotiated the Headwaters Forest Agreement, and conducted the Cal-Fed water negotiations. He also advanced the protection of National Parks and negotiated the largest habitat conservation plans in the Western States.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 24, 2007

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